

Date: December 9, 2013

To: Mayor Lee and councilmembers

From: Steve Kasner Chair, East Bellevue Community Council

Subject: EAST BELLEVUE COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2013

It was an eventful year for the East Bellevue Community Council. Due to the number of issues concerning our community the attendance grew from a low of about 10 early in the year to an average of almost 50 over the last few months. The State Joint Select Committee on Junior Taxing Districts decided to make no changes in Municipal Corporations of which the EBCC is one of two in our State. In the recent election, our community voted overwhelmingly , over 81%, to maintain the EBCC. Our hope is that in 2014 we can work more closely with the City Council and city staff on the current issues that are impacting our community.

CURRENT MAKEUP OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

In this election, Betsy Hummer became a new member of the EBCC replacing Ken Seal who has served on the EBCC since 1994. Betsy is a resident of Sunset Ranch, has been a member of the St. Louise pastoral council, and has been active in Bellevue citizens advisory councils for many years.

At the same time, we have lost Steve Kasner (term expired) who will be difficult to replace due to his commitment, knowledge and energy that he has given to the community. There is a current opening on the EBCC as Bob Adams, who ran unopposed, resigned before being sworn in. Unless he changes his mind, we will need to interview candidates and appoint a new member early in 2014. Gerald Hughes, Ross Gooding, and Bill Capron ran unopposed and were reelected.

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Kelsey Creek Center is operating at near capacity and is a jewel of our community. The recent update of the conditional use permit will allow this center to reach its full capacity after 10 years of negotiations between many groups

including the City Council, EBCC, residents, and Brian and Nat Franklin, the developers. This decreases traffic overall by allowing our residents to meet many of their shopping needs in their own neighborhood.

In addition, the Lake Hills Shopping Center is well into construction. When completed over the next three years with new housing, underground parking, shops and commercial properties it will become a meeting place and destination for the East Side. Again, we need to thank all involved in making this happen especially the patience and persistence of Oscar Del Moro.

In 2013, we had a neighborhood traffic forum lead by Mark Poch from transportation where the main issue was the traffic flow along 148th. This was well attended with over 50 residents giving specific input on their concerns and recommendations for potential changes. This is of particular interest to the Imperial East neighborhood where residents feel trapped. At times, it is almost impossible for them to move out onto Main St. or 148th, the only exits available to them. In addition, they are particularly interested in the impact of traffic on their neighborhood from the planned remodel and expansion of Odle Middle School. These concerns will come before the EBCC as this quasi-judicial issue moves forward and recommendations are made.

We hosted the Comprehensive Plan Neighborhood forum in February that was also well attended with over 60 Bellevue residents participating. The EBCC is very interested in continuing to participate in neighborhood meetings to maximize citizen input to make Bellevue a great place to live, work and play.

An ongoing issue, is the concerns of Spiritwood residents regarding investors converting houses to multi resident rentals. The City Council has passed an Emergency Ordinance that was presented at our November meeting. The ordinance is certainly welcomed but the implementation and enforcement are major concerns for the residents since this is not addressed in the ordinance. We will be addressing these concerns and hope to work with the City Council to move forward in implementation in 2014.

The EBCC held two public meetings to review a quasi-judicial issue regarding power lines in our neighborhood. With the recent Seattle Times article regarding the larger plans for power line development on the Eastside we anticipate more public meetings with PSE, City Staff and EBCC in 2014. These issues are of great interest to our area and will be well attended.

ISSUES FOR 2014

As we move forward into 2014, we are requesting a liaison from the City Council to the EBCC to facilitate timely communication on joint concerns. In addition, direct communication from City Council members and their attendance at some of the EBCC meetings would be welcomed. Generally, in all planning meetings, there been comments from residents that our area does not receive enough attention versus the more affluent areas of Bellevue.

Thank you for your hard work representing the citizens of Bellevue. It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the East Bellevue Community Council.